

F A B

F, A consonant generally reckoned by authors, and admitted by *Scaliger*, among the semi-vowels, and according to that opinion distinguished in the enumeration of the alphabet by a name beginning with a vowel, yet has so far the nature of a mute, that it is easily pronounced before a liquid in the same syllable. It has in English an invariable sound, formed by compression of the whole lips and a forcible breath. Its kindred letter is V, which, in the Islandick alphabet, is only distinguished from it by a point in the body of the letter.

FABA'CEOUS. *adj.* [*fabaceus*, Latin.] Having the nature of a bean. *Dist.*

FA'BLE. *n. f.* [*fable*, French; *fabula*, Latin.]

1. A feigned story intended to enforce some moral precept.

Jotham's *fable* of the bees is the oldest extant, and as beautiful as any made since. *Addison's Spectator.*

2. A fiction in general.

Triptolemus, so sung the nine,

Strew'd plenty from his cart divine;

But, spite of all those *fable* makers,

He never sow'd on Almain acres. *Dryden.*

3. A vicious or foolish fiction.

But refuse profane and old wives *fables*. *1 Tim. iv. 7.*

4. The series or texture of events which constitute a poem epick or dramatick.

The moral is the first business of the poet: this being formed, he contrives such a design or *fable* as may be most suitable to the moral. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

The first thing to be considered in an epick poem is the *fable*, which is perfect or imperfect, according as the action, which it relates, is more or less so. *Addison's Spectator.*

5. A lye. This sense is merely familiar.

FA'BLE. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To feign; to write not truth but fiction.

That Saturn's sons receiv'd the three-fold reign

Of heav'n, of ocean, and deep hell beneath,

Old poets mention, *fabling*. *Prior.*

Vain now the tales which *fabling* poets tell,

That warring conquest still desires to rove!

In Marlbro's camp the goddess knows to dwell. *Prior.*

2. To tell falsehoods; to lye.

He *fables* not: I hear the enemy. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*

FA'BLE. *v. a.* To feign; to tell of falsity.

We mean to win,

Or turn this heav'n itself into the hell

Thou *fablest*. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi. l. 292.*

Ladies of th' Hesperides, that seem'd

Fairer than feign'd of old, or *fah'd* since

Of fairy damsels met in forest wide,

By knights. *Milton's Parad. Lost.*

FA'BLED. *adj.* [from *fable*.] Celebrated in fables.

Hail, *fabled* grotto! hail, Elysian soil!

Thou fairest spot of fair Britannia's isle! *Tickell.*

FA'BLER. *n. f.* [from *fable*.] A dealer in fiction; a writer of feigned stories.

TO FA'BRICATE. *v. a.* [*fabricar*, Latin.]

1. To build; to construct.

2. To forge; to devise falsely. This sense is retained among the Scottish lawyers; for when they suspect a paper to be forged, they say it is *fabricate*.

FABRIC'ATION. *n. f.* [from *fabricate*.] The act of building; construction.

This *fabricat'on* of the human body is the immediate work of a vital principle, that formeth the first rudiments of the human nature. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

FA'BRICK. *n. f.* [*fabrica*, Latin.]

1. A building; an edifice.

There must be an exquisite care to place the columns, set in several stories, most precisely one over another, that so the solid may answer to the solid, and the vacuities to the vacuities, as well for beauty as strength of the *fabrick*. *Watson.*

2. Any system or compages of matter; any body formed by the conjunction of dissimilar parts.

Still will ye think it strange,

That all the parts of this great *fabrick* change;

Quit their old station and primeval frame. *Prior.*

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TO FA'BRICK. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To build; to form; to construct.

Shew what laws of life

The cheese inhabitants observe, and how

Fabrick their mansions. *Phillips.*

FA'BULIST. *n. f.* [*fabuliste*, French.] A writer of fables.

Quitting *Esope* and the *fabulists*, he copies from *Boccace*.

Craxal.

Our bard's a *fabulist*, and deals in fiction. *Garrick.*

FABULO'SITY. *n. f.* [*fabulositas*, Latin.] Lyingness; fulness of stories; fabulous invention.

In their *fabulosity* they would report, that they had observations for twenty thousand years.

Abbot's Description of the World.

FA'BULOUS. *adj.* [*fabulosus*, Latin.] Feigned; full of fables, or invented tales.

A person terrified with the imagination of spectres, is more reasonable than one who thinks the appearance of spirits *fabulous* and groundless. *Addison's Spectator, N^o. 110.*

FA'BULOUSLY. *adv.* [from *fabulous*.] In fiction; in a fabulous manner.

There are many things *fabulously* delivered, and are not to be accepted as truths. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 8.*

FACE. *n. f.* [*face*, French, from *facies*, Latin.]

1. The visage.

The children of Israel saw the *face* of Moses, that the skin of Moses's *face* shone. *Exod. xxxiv. 35.*

A man shall see *faces*, which, if you examine them part by part, you shall never find good; but take them together, are not uncomely. *Bacon, Essay 44.*

From beauty still to beauty ranging,

In ev'ry *face* I found a dart. *Addison's Spectator.*

2. Countenance; cast of the features; look; air of the face.

Seiz'd and ty'd down to judge, how wretched I!

Who can't be silent, and who will not lye:

To laugh, were want of goodness and of grace;

And to be grave, exceeds all pow'r of *face*. *Pope's Epistles.*

3. The surface of any thing.

A mist watered the whole *face* of the ground. *Gen. ii. 6.*

4. The front or forepart of any thing.

The breadth of the *face* of the house, towards the East, was an hundred cubits. *Exod. xli. 14.*

4. State of affairs.

He look'd, and saw the *face* of things quite chang'd,

The brazen throat of war had ceas'd to roar;

All now was turn'd to jollity and game,

To luxury and riot, feast and dance. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

This would produce a new *face* of things in Europe. *Addison's Spectator.*

5. Appearance; resemblance.

Keep still your former *face*, and mix again

With these lost spirits; run all their mazes with 'em;

For such are treasons. *Ben. Johnson.*

At the first shock, with blood and powder stain'd,

Nor heav'n, nor sea, their former *face* retain'd;

Fury and art produce effects so strange,

They trouble nature, and her visage change. *Waller.*

His dialogue has so much the *face* of probability, that some have mistaken it for a real conference. *Baker.*

6. Preference; fight.

Ye shall give her unto Eleazar, and one shall slay her before his *face*. *Numb. xix. 3.*

Jove cannot fear; then tell me to my *face*,

That I of all the gods am least in grace. *Dryden's Iliad.*

7. Confidence; boldness.

Thinking, by this *face*,

To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;

But 'tis not so. *Shakspere's Julius Caesar.*

How many things are there which a man cannot, with any *face* or comeliness, say or do himself? A man can scarce allege his own merits with modesty, much less extol them: a man cannot sometimes brook to supplicate or beg. *Bacon, Essay 28.*

You'll find the thing will not be done

With ignorance and *face* alone. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

You, says the judge to the wolf, have the *face* to challenge that

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